

# PRIMARY CARE RESOURCE INITIATIVE FOR MISSOURI

*Annual Report 2020*

PR<sup>9</sup>MO



Missouri Department of  
Health and Senior Services

# About This Report

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) established the Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri (PRIMO) Program, as a result of the Missouri Revised Statutes Section 191.411. This legislation authorizes the DHSS to develop and implement a plan to make health care services more accessible to all Missouri residents. The PRIMO Program focuses on improving health care delivery systems and increasing the number of primary care, dental health, and mental health professionals practicing in Missouri Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). The DHSS, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (ORHPC) administers the PRIMO Program. This report demonstrates the PRIMO budget and activities for State Fiscal Year 2020 (SFY20).



The Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri (PRIMO) is a comprehensive program designed to improve healthcare delivery in the State of Missouri. There are four components to PRIMO:

- Student Loans
- Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)
- Health Care Delivery System Development
- Recruitment/Placement of Health Professionals

The PRIMO student loan program is a competitive state program that awards forgivable loans to students pursuing training leading to Missouri licensure in specific health care professions as a primary care physician, dentist, or dental hygienist and whom intend to practice in a Missouri designated medical or dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) following licensure.

## Funding Sources

- **PRIMO Student Loans:** The Missouri Hospital Association (MHA) provides a generous donation to assist in funding student loans, in addition to payments from loan recipients who have defaulted on their contracts, default payments, tax intercepts, and wage garnishments.
- **Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP):** The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) issues states funding through a Federal SLRP Grant requiring a dollar-to-dollar (1:1) state funds match. The match is acquired from the MHA providing a generous donation, in addition to payments from loan recipients who defaulted on their contracts, default payments, tax intercepts, and wage garnishments.
- **Recruitment/Placement of Health Professionals:** The HRSA issues states with funding through a Federal Primary Care Office (PCO) Grant, in addition to the state Health Access Incentive Fund (HAIF).
- **Health Care Delivery System Development:** Provided by the HAIF.
- **Rural Residency:** Provided by the HAIF.
- **Area Health Education Centers (AHECs):** Appropriated by the General Assembly.

## PRIMO State Fiscal Year 2020 BUDGET

PRIMO Student Loans

\$105,000.00

Student Loan Repayment Program

\$1,267,015.00

Recruitment/Replacement

\$200,000.00

Rural Medical Services Program

\$312,192.00

Area Health Education Centers

\$363,750.00





## Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)

Website: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area>

Designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the DHSS utilizes HPSAs to identify areas, population groups, or facilities within Missouri experiencing a shortage of health care professionals. The HPSAs help determine where to allocate federal and state resources to best increase access to health care. The HPSAs are also utilized to identify qualifying employment areas for loan recipients completing their service obligations.

### HPSA disciplines include:

- Primary Care
- Dental Health
- Mental Health

### The HPSA designations may be:

- Geographic-based (a county, defined service area, or census tract);
- Population-based (specific population groups, such as low income or Medicaid eligible);
- Facility-based (correctional facilities, state mental hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers and Auto-HPSA facilities).

## PRIMO Student Loans

The PRIMO Student Loan program is a competitive state program that awards funding to Missouri residents attending a Missouri institution pursuing training leading to Missouri licensure as primary care physicians, dentists, and dental hygienists. Upon completion of training, the PRIMO student loan recipients practice in a designated primary care or dental health HPSA in Missouri.

### PRIMO Loan Applicant Qualifications

- Full-time enrollment at a Missouri educational institution in a course of study leading to licensure in one of the qualifying health care professions.
- Resident of Missouri for at least one year, prior to applying.
- Express a desire to work in a primary care or dental health shortage area upon completion of training.

### PRIMO Qualifying Health Care Professions

- Primary care physicians specializing in:
  - ✓ General Practice
  - ✓ Family Practice
  - ✓ Internal Medicine
  - ✓ Pediatric
  - ✓ Obstetric and Gynecological Care
- General Dentist
- Dental Hygienist

### PRIMO Loan Amounts

The chart demonstrates the amount of the funding awarded to loan recipients based on the discipline and type of degree.

Amount Per Academic Year	Number of Maximum Loans	Student Status	Degree
\$5,000	Maximum 4 loans	Full-Time	Undergraduate or Dental Hygienist Students
\$3,000	Maximum 6 loans	Part-Time	Undergraduate or Dental Hygienist Students
\$10,000	Years 1 and 2 of a 6-Year Program	Full-Time	Allopathic or Osteopathic Medical or Dental Program
\$20,000 - \$25,000	Years 3 through 6 of a 6-Year Program	Full-Time	Allopathic or Osteopathic Medical or Dental Program
\$20,000 - \$25,000	Maximum 4 Years of a 4-Year Program	Full-Time	Allopathic or Osteopathic Medical or Dental Program
\$10,000	Maximum 3 Loans	Full-Time	Selected Primary Care Resident Physicians

# Loan Forgiveness



Upon completion of training, the PRIMO recipient fulfills their loan repayment obligation by earning forgiveness through qualifying employment in a Missouri HPSA, experiencing shortages of primary care, mental health, and/or dental health professionals.

- **Qualifying Employment:** full-time, direct patient care at a facility located in a Missouri HPSA. Recipients repay their PRIMO loans by working as a primary care provider in a Missouri HPSA location. Each loan contract requires a one-year service commitment. Service commitments cap at a five-year maximum, regardless of the number of loans awarded. The licensed PRIMO recipient must accept Medicaid, Medicare, and work at an employment site that operates with a sliding fee schedule. The loan recipient must provide professional primary health care services to the general population.
- **Cash Repayment:** If the loan recipient defaulted on their loan obligation or decided to repay the loan, they must pay back the entire amount dispersed plus accrued interest. The loan begins accruing interest at the rate of 9.5% the date the loan is dispersed.

## SFY20 Practicing PRIMO Recipients Surveys

### In SFY20:

- 75% of practicing PRIMO recipients reported planning to remain:
  - ✓ in their current practice for an additional 30 years;
  - ✓ in their communities for an additional 40 years;
  - ✓ in rural practice for an additional 35 years; and
  - ✓ in the state of Missouri for an additional 40 years.
- 25% of practicing PRIMO recipients reported planning to remain:
  - ✓ in their current practice for an additional five years;
  - ✓ in their communities for an additional five years;
  - ✓ in rural practice for an additional 25 years; and
  - ✓ in the state of Missouri for an additional 25 years.
- 69% of practicing PRIMO recipients reported feeling their practice is financially stable and they do important work.
- 100% of practicing PRIMO recipients reported they fully value the mission of their practice.
- 92% of practicing PRIMO recipients reported they are able to provide the full range of services for which they were trained to perform and they are satisfied overall in their current practice.

In SFY20, PRIMO recipients continued efforts to increase access to care. Practicing PRIMO recipients, serving their service obligations, reported spending an average of 32 hours on clinical work, seeing an average of 80 patients per week. The majority of practicing PRIMO recipients are Family Medicine Physicians serving in Missouri rural underserved areas.

## PRIMO Student Loans Fiscal Year 2020



# Rural

## 22

# Urban

## 5

# Total

## 27

### SFY20 PRIMO Serving Service Obligations Rural/Urban

#### SFY20 PRIMO Service Obligations by Specialty

1 Psychiatrist

1 Internal Medicine Physician

3 Pediatric Physicians

4 Dentists

18 Family Medicine Physicians

TOTAL = 27

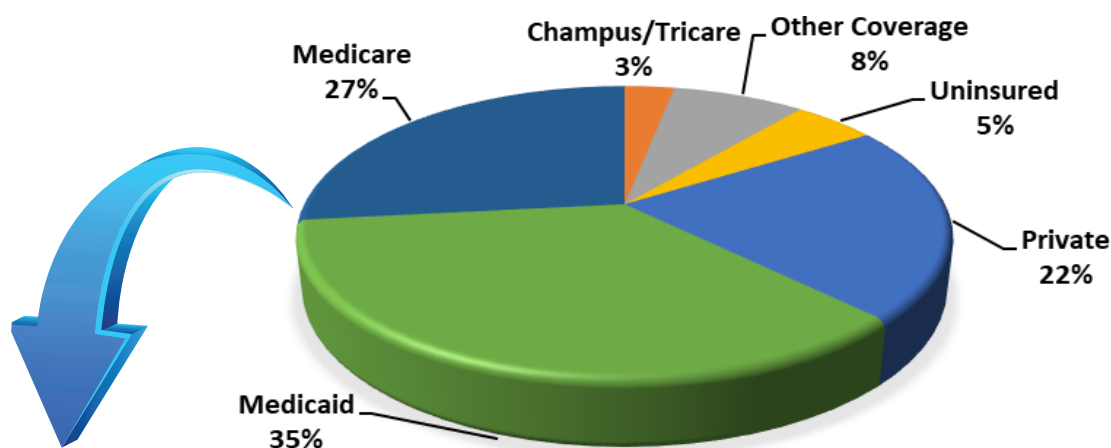


awards funding for eligible educational expenses to qualified students pursuing careers as licensed physicians specializing in family practice, general practice, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, obstetric and gynecological care; or licensed general dentists, or dental hygienists.

Learn more:

<https://health.mo.gov/living/families/primarycare/hpl-lr/index.php>

#### PRIMO SFY20 PAYER MIX

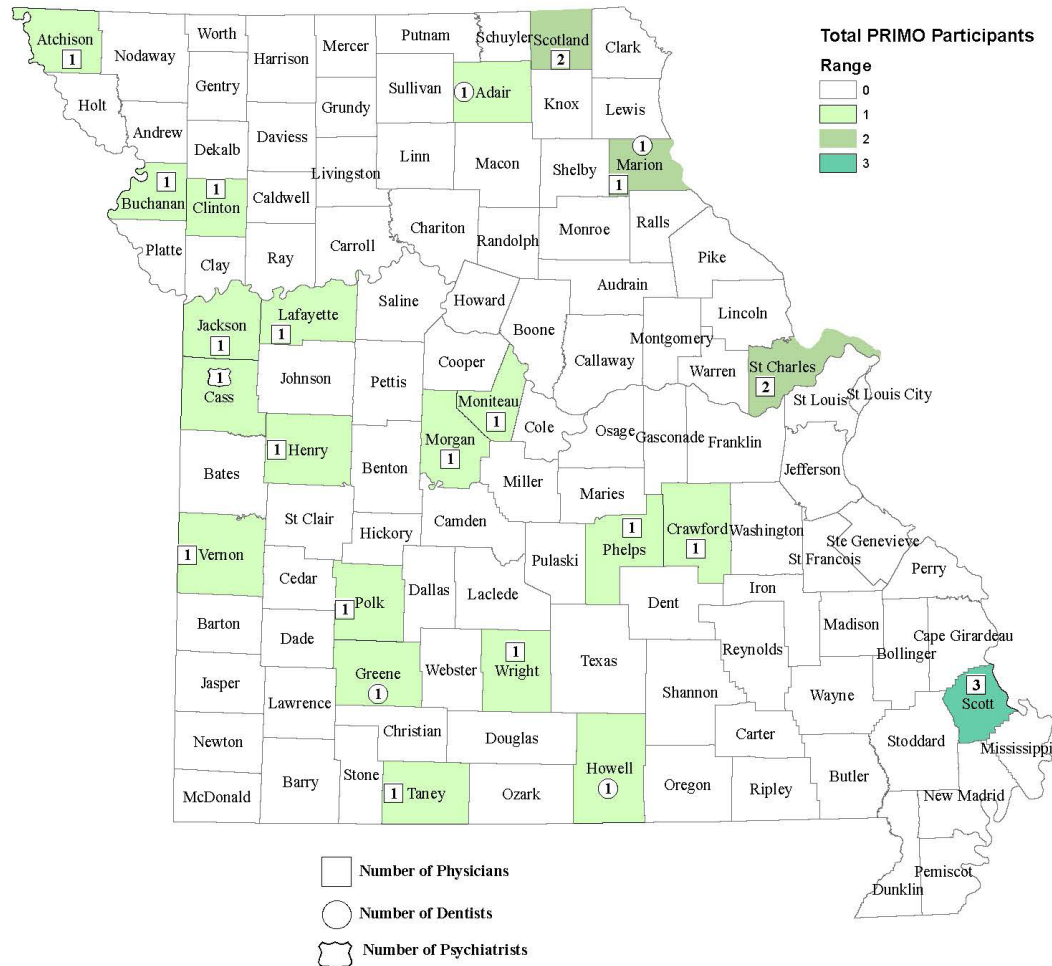


According to the PRIMO SFY20 Payer Mix chart, the percentages of each insurance and payer type are indicative of the population served. Medicaid represents the largest reimbursement and population served, at 35%. Medicare is the second largest reimbursement and population served, at 27%.

# Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri

## PRIMO Scholars Who Completed or Are Completing Obligation in 2020

Total = 27



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Office of Primary Care and Rural Health

The map above demonstrates the county locations where PRIMO physicians, dentists, dental hygienists, and behavioral health practitioners are currently earning forgiveness or have fulfilled their forgiveness requirements in SFY20. The map indicates 27 PRIMO recipients earned or are earning forgiveness on their PRIMO loans in SFY20.

## RESOURCES



- Health Professional Loan and Loan Repayment Programs  
<https://health.mo.gov/living/families/primarycare/hpl-lr/index.php>
- Health Professional Shortage Area  
<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area>
- Missouri Primary Care Association  
<https://www.mo-pca.org/>
- Missouri Hospital Association  
<https://web.mhanet.com>
- Missouri Area Health Education Centers  
<https://mahec.org/>
- MU School of Medicine- Rural Track Pipeline Program  
<https://medicine.missouri.edu/education/rural-track-pipeline-program>



# Student Loan Repayment Program

The Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) seeks to improve primary care access by assisting rural and underserved communities with the recruitment and retention of primary care providers. The SLRP offers eligible health care providers the opportunity to receive repayment assistance for qualifying educational loans in exchange for a two-year minimum commitment to provide health care services at an eligible primary care practice site located in a federally designated Missouri HPSA. Learn more at <https://health.mo.gov/living/families/primarycare/loanrepayment/slrp.php>.

Awards for this program are financed through funding from HRSA of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under grant HRSA-14-033, Affordable Care Act - State Loan Repayment Program, CFDA 93.165, a required 1:1 state match funding commitment made possible by an annual donation from the MHA, and recipients who have defaulted on their loans. In SFY20, 25 primary health care professionals were awarded loan repayment assistance to repay qualified educational debt.

## SFY20 Practicing SLRP Recipients Surveys

### In SFY20:

- 75% of practicing SLRP recipients reported planning to remain:
  - ✓ in their current practice for an additional 20 years;
  - ✓ in their communities for an additional 30 years;
  - ✓ in rural practice for an additional 30 years; and
  - ✓ in the state of Missouri for an additional 30 years.
- 25% of practicing PRIMO recipients reported planning to remain:
  - ✓ in their current practice for an additional five years;
  - ✓ in their communities for an additional five years;
  - ✓ in rural practice for an additional seven years; and
  - ✓ in the state of Missouri for an additional 20 years.
- 100% of practicing SLRP recipients reported feeling that they do important work.
- 95% practicing SLRP recipients reported they fully value the mission of their practice.
- 95% practicing SLRP recipients reported they are able to provide the full range of services for which they were trained to perform.
- 77% practicing SLRP recipients reported that they are satisfied overall in their current practice.

In SFY20, SLRP recipients continued efforts to increase access to care. The SLRP recipients serving their service obligations, reported spending an average of 40 hours on clinical work and seeing an average of 77 patients per week. The majority of practicing SLRP recipients are Dentists practicing in Missouri rural underserved areas.



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The Student Loan Repayment Program offers eligible health care providers the opportunity to receive repayment assistance for qualifying educational loans in exchange for a two-year minimum commitment to provide health care services at an eligible primary care practice site located in a federally designated Missouri HPSA.

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# Rural

## 38

# Urban

## 23

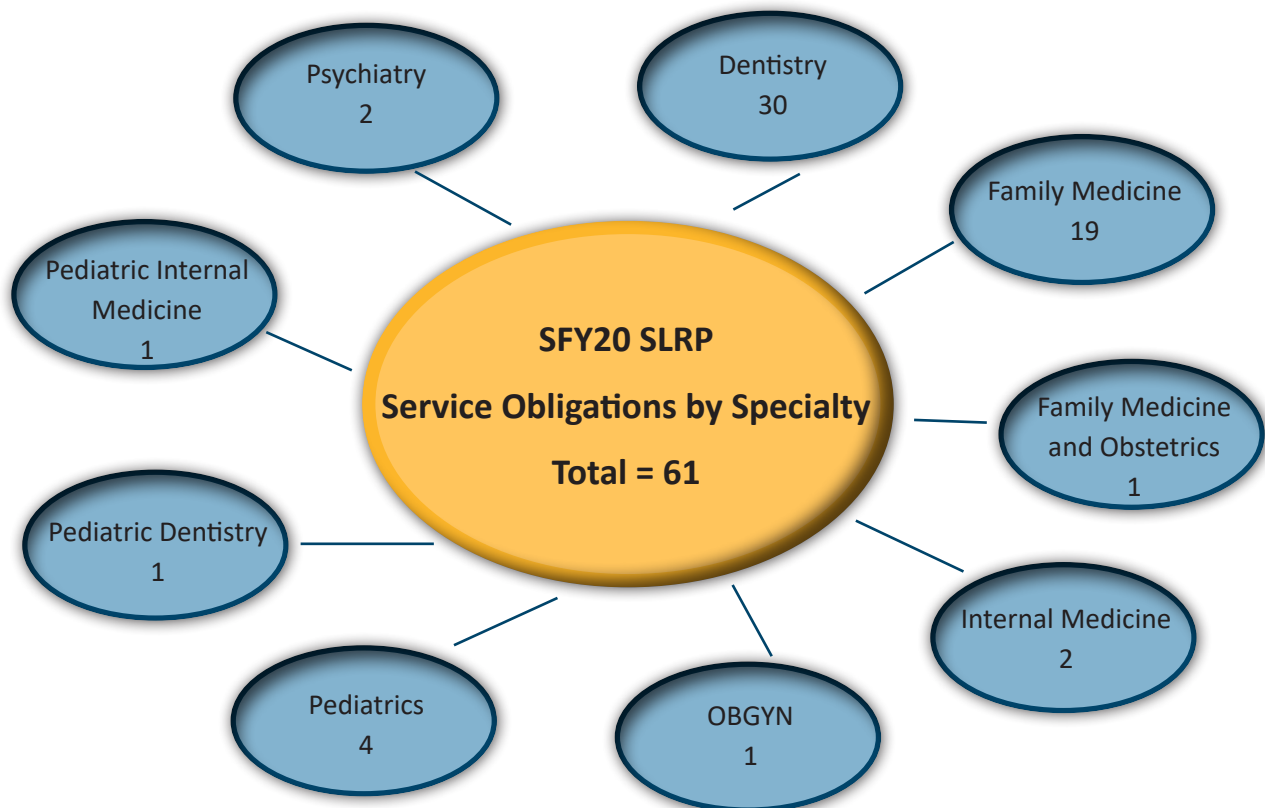
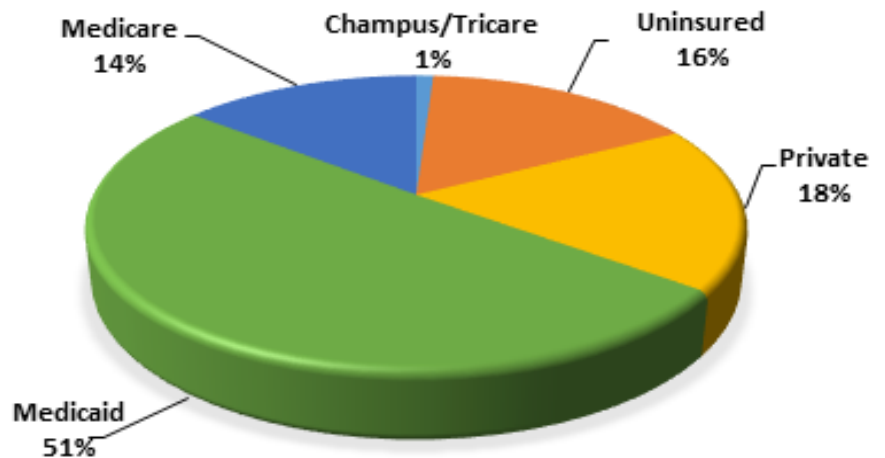
# Total

## 61

### SFY20 SLRP Serving Service Obligations Rural/Urban

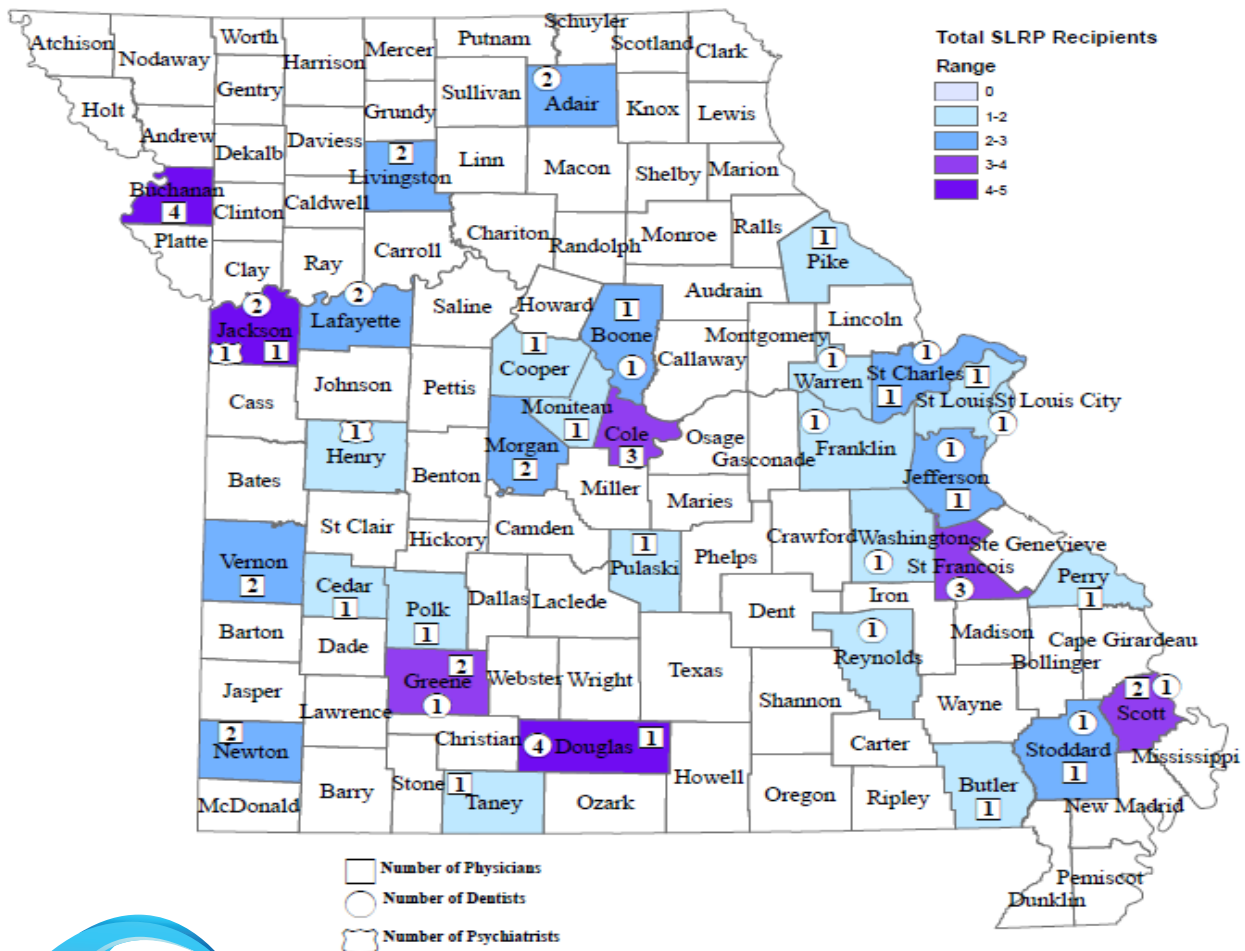
According to the SLRP SFY20 Payer Mix chart, the percentages of each insurance and payer type are indicative of the population served. Medicaid represents the largest reimbursement and population served, at 51%. The uninsured are the third largest reimbursement and population served, at 16%.

SLRP SFY20 PAYER MIX





**Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)**  
**SLRP Recipients Who Completed or Are Completing Obligation in 2020**  
**Total = 61**



# RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT



The DHSS, ORHPC collaborates with the Missouri Primary Care Association (MPCA) and the MHA to identify and address workforce shortage needs. The Missouri Health Professional Placement Services (MHPPS) program is a non-profit statewide health care program that specializes in workforce development, recruitment, and retention. The MHPPS partners with safety-net providers and health

care systems to recruit and retain health care professionals in Missouri rural and underserved areas.

The tables below illustrates the number of opportunities available to health professionals demonstrating the number of opportunities posted and the number of placed health professionals.

## SFY19 and SFY20 Practice Sites Opportunity Data Health Professional Employment Opportunities Posted

Opportunity Specialty	State Fiscal Year 2019	State Fiscal Year 2020	Total
Family Medicine	94	99	193
Internal Medicine	18	19	37
Internal Medicine & Pediatrics	10	10	20
OB/GYN	10	11	21
Pediatrician	15	17	32
Advanced Practice Nurse	19	24	43
Physician Assistant	4	4	8
Dental Hygiene	3	6	9
Dentist	66	73	139
Psychiatry	17	21	38
Other Mental Health Professional	38	11	49
Other Physician	25	40	65
Pharmacist	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>654</b>

## SFY19 and SFY20 Practice Sites Placement Data Health Professionals Placed in Missouri Health Care Facilities

Opportunity Specialty	State Fiscal Year 2019	State Fiscal Year 2020	Total
Family Medicine	2	1	3
Internal Medicine & Pediatrics	1	0	1
Advanced Practice Nurse	1	1	2
Dentist	6	8	14
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>

The PRIMO Program seeks to improve the delivery of health care services by collaborating with statewide organizations, communities, and academic institutions to support the building of clinics, treatment centers, and other economically sustainable health care delivery sites.

### Missouri School of Medicine, Rural Track Pipeline Program (MU-RTPP)

During SFY20, PRIMO provided continued funding to support the Rural Medical Services Grant with the MU-RTPP. The MU-RTPP works to increase the placement of primary care physicians in rural areas of Missouri through the recruitment and preadmission of medical students from rural areas of the state, while emphasizing student training at rural clinical sites. This upstream approach to provider training complements the intent of the PRIMO program to provide incentives to increase the number of primary medical care professionals and health care delivery systems in areas of need within Missouri.

The MU-RTPP has a successful record of producing physicians for the state of Missouri with 63.1% of participants practicing in Missouri of which 44.9% of those physicians practicing in Rural Missouri. The MU-RTPP celebrated its 25th anniversary in SFY20.

#### SFY20 Collaboration Accomplishments:

- Quarterly lectures to medical students and residents were provided on topics including Cultural Competency, Practice Transformation, and Interprofessional Education. Of the surveyed attendees of the Interprofessional Education lecture, 87% indicated increased interest in primary care practice, and 74% said they were more interested in practicing rural medicine.
- The Rural Immersion Program continues to unite medical and health care students with rural communities to examine the unique challenges rural communities face. This is a non-clinical, four-day experience, during which the students travel to a rural location to learn about the community and its rewards and challenges. In SFY20 the program took place in Sedalia, MO, with 21 participants.
- Presented at the 2020 National Rural Health Association Rural Medical Educators Conclave: “Building a National Rural Track Database System: Lessons Learned”.

### Missouri Area Health Education Centers (MAHEC)

The DHSS, ORHPC maintains a partnership with the MAHECS. The MAHEC is comprised of seven regional centers and three medical schools. The MAHEC contract focuses on working with Missouri students to grow Missouri’s healthcare workforce. Students have explored and prepared for careers in the health field, many of which are now working health care providers in communities across Missouri. Students may participate in MAHEC at different levels of the pipeline as high school, undergraduate, or health professions training students. For many, their involvement in MAHEC activities continued from middle school through clinical training.

#### SFY20 Collaboration Accomplishments:

- 84 new pipeline students were identified.
- 53 MAHEC participants began primary care residencies in Missouri.
- 33 medical students, three physician assistant students, and 5 nurse practitioner students completed clinical rotations in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and rural health clinics (RHC).

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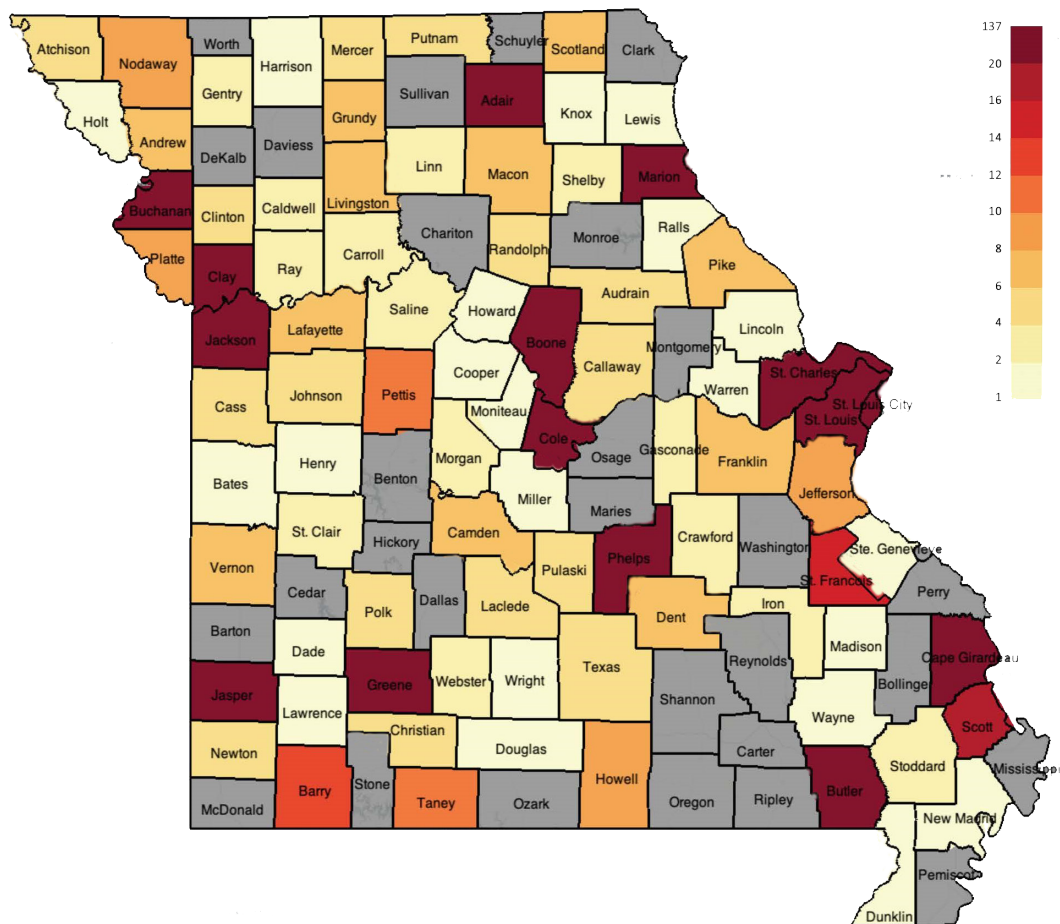




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- 36 health professions students participated in interprofessional training experiences in primary care delivery sites.
- 57 medical students participated in clinical rotations of 4 weeks or more in FQHCs and rural health clinics (RHCs).
- 3 M\*A\*S\*H (Missouri AHEC Science & Health) Camps for teachers/counselors were held to build the capacity of 22 middle and high school teachers/counselors to enhance their knowledge and skills in providing guidance and instruction to students on health career options and preparation.
- 79 health care professions students participated in the AHEC Scholars program. The AHEC Scholars program is a two-year interprofessional education program, designed to supplement their health professions curricula and better prepare them to provide care to rural and urban underserved populations. Four AHEC Scholars from the first (pilot) cohort completed year-two programming and graduated from their respective health career programs.
- MAHEC offered one workshop for health careers pipeline participants and two didactic presentations for medical students and residents, addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. The educational offerings were provided using distance learning technology.
- The table below illustrates the employment locations of prior MAHEC students, as of December 15, 2020.
- 1,249 MAHEC participants have gone on to health care careers in 86 of Missouri's 115 counties; 78 of these counties are Primary Care HPSAs.

### Current Employment Locations of MAHEC's Prior Students



To date, at least 1,249 MAHEC participants have gone on to healthcare careers in 86 of Missouri's 115 counties, 78 of these counties are Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).



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